

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #31
October 30, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE.

- The World Health Organization did not confirm any additional activity related to H5N1 influenza in humans this week. The human case count stands at 256, including 151 deaths (59%).
- The October 27, 2006 issue of the Weekly Epidemiological Record, published by the WHO, contains a summary of the 10 cases that occurred in Turkey between December 25, 2005 and January 8, 2006. All 10 cases occurred among children aged 3-15 years (average = 8.9 years). Four deaths occurred among this cluster; all the children who died were between 12-15 years of age, and the deaths occurred from 7-10 days after onset of illness. Investigations confirmed that close exposure to infected poultry was the principal risk factor; no additional human cases occurred after poultry were culled in the affected areas. More details about the cluster in Turkey are available at <http://www.who.int/wer/2006/wer8143.pdf>

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The statewide PanFlu Exercise "FLUEX '06" was conducted October 23-24. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), many local EOCs and the VDH Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) all were activated in support of this event. Local Health Districts participated as did the Virginia National Guard, VITA, DHRM and several other state agencies. Numerous hospitals across the Commonwealth, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Marshal Service were also involved. Observers included representatives of DOD's recently established Pandemic Flu Task Force and the Federal Reserve Bank. In addition to the exercise's two-day PanFlu focus, a Strategic National Stockpile Distribution Exercise was conducted in Northern Virginia with our National Capitol Region partners in Washington, DC and Maryland. Out of sequence demonstrations were conducted Oct. 25-26 that included a legal review of Isolation and Quarantine protocols in Alexandria and activation of the Washington (Dulles) Quarantine Station and associated processes in Loudoun. Commencing last weekend and continuing for the next two months, many local Health Districts will be exercising their Mass Vaccination Plans with annual flu vaccine provided for FLUEX '06.
- Virginia was recognized for development of a pandemic influenza media kit at the 2006 Annual National Public Health Information Coalition Conference. NPHIC's Gold Award was presented to the eastern regional team for the packet's content and value as a visual for news organizations to reinforce VDH messages to the public. The contents included-- VDH's Pan Flu DVD, hand sanitizer, tissues and more all with the VDH logo.
- Flu planning was a featured agenda item among state agencies at last week's Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group (CPWG).
- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will sponsor a "Preparing for Pandemic" Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>

- Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness and Response has been invited to give a PanFlu Planning Presentation at the upcoming Virginia Association of Counties' Annual Conference.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is coordinating with VDEM, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) representatives to develop an agenda for a pandemic flu workshop on December 1 for local officials.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in Blacksburg for the Near SW Region on October 31.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Central Region**
 - Chesterfield County Health District held a mass vaccination exercise. Health care professionals administered approximately 750 doses of flu vaccine to residents. Participants were in and out of the building in less than 10 minutes.
 - Richmond City also held its dispensing exercise this week. Flu shots were given to 230 first responders who agreed to participate in the emergency simulation. Participants were in and out in 5 minutes. (Both Richmond and Chesterfield received extensive media coverage.)
Other exercises this week included, Chickahominy which held a table top exercise; Lunenburg and Nottoway staged dispensing sites giving away a total of 400 doses of flu vaccine for people who participated in the emergency simulation.
- **Northern Region**
 - NOVA PanFlu Exercise "Healthy Rider" partnership with Metro worked out very well. Fairfax County, Arlington and Alexandria (along with members of the VDH PR team) staffed three Metro stations in NOVA, distributing cold and flu educational materials, as well as hand sanitizers supplied by Metro. Media coverage of the event included numerous radio announcements, Ch. 5 and Ch. 9 television, as well as articles in local newspapers. An HHS film crew (Regional PIO facilitated) spent hours on site, getting footage of local health departments "in action", so that we will be able to help visualize telling the pandemic flu preparedness message. PIO also worked to coordinate the HHS contractors on site at the Loudoun County Flu Exercise on Saturday, Oct. 23.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**
 - Participated in State Pandemic Influenza exercise, FLUEX '06. Spent one day exercising and testing our internal processes, decision-making, and continuity of operations. Spent one day testing our ability to request materials from RSS warehouse, and then distribute these materials to seventeen local sites. Spent one day testing the involuntary isolation and quarantine process. In the latter two instances, worked extensively and actually with law enforcement, schools, city attorney, Circuit Court, City Information Technology, VDH, and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.
- **Arlington**
 - Arlington County participated in the VDH Statewide Pandemic Influenza Exercise with a full activation of the Emergency Operations Center, an activation of a Unified Incident Command with a public health lead and a full activation of the Emergency Policy Team. Plans were validated and important issues related to pandemic influenza discussed including: continuity of government; alternate care facilities; management of fatalities; command and control; and community containment. Participating with Arlington was the Virginia Hospital Center, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority EMS, and Department of Defense representatives from the Pentagon DiLorenzo Tricare Clinic and the Fort Myer Andrew Rader Clinic.
- **Central Shenandoah**
 - District participated in Statewide PanFlu Exercise.
 - District conducted drive-thru flu exercise in Rockingham County vaccinating 517.

- Planner assisted Lord Fairfax HD with PanFlu EOC Exercise in Woodstock.
- **Central Virginia**
 - PanFlu activities for this week included participation in FLUEX '06 on October 23 and 24 and finalization of plans for the flu vaccine POD drill on October 28.
 - Health Educator participated in the health fair at Lynchburg College, providing students, staff and faculty with PanFlu and personal preparedness information.
- **Chesapeake**
 - In conjunction with the Chesapeake Health Department's activation of our Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) on October 23-24, the City of Chesapeake also fully activated its Emergency operations Center (EOC), with a shift change, on October 24 for the FLUEX '06 exercise. Emergency planner and City emergency management personnel collaborated on event injects for the EOC. Almost all City Departments were represented in the EOC and the Assistant City Managers participated as well. The Health Department was represented by the District Director and Deputy Director in the EOC.
- **Chesterfield**
 - District conducted an emergency exercise on 10/23-10/24 in conjunction with the state exercise, culminating in a mass vaccination clinic on 10/25 in the health district. Over 100 health department staff participated and 750 community members received free flu vaccinations during the two-hour clinic. The health educator had pandemic influenza and emergency preparedness displays on-site, distributed hand-outs and conducted informal health education to community members receiving flu vaccines.
- **Chickahominy**
 - Participated in the FLUEX '06.
 - Coordinated with School Board Superintendents for Charles City and New Kent to discuss PanFlu.
 - Requesting Goochland School Superintendent to share plans with other county schools, as well as working on discussing same with Chesterfield.
 - Sent out PanFlu introductory letter introducing the PanFlu Coordinator and offering continuous loop DVD on PanFlu for their waiting rooms; reminders of PanFlu information preparation/education packet sent out in Sept..
 - Beginning to contact volunteers who expressed interest in participating in Hanover Co Citizen coalition for preparation for PanFlu.
 - Beginning to plan presentations to Citizens Coalitions for PanFlu Preparedness
- **Crater**
 - Planner and PanFlu Health Educator attended the Petersburg PanFlu Task Force meeting where discussions were continued on educating city staff on pandemic influenza. Several informational sessions were set up so that Health Department staff could present preparedness information to the staff. A plan will be written by the city once the all key staff members have been given an overview of the potential impact a pandemic would have on their organizations. Another meeting is scheduled for November.
 - Pandemic flu presentations were given to management staff at District 19 and Petersburg Sheriff's Department/Judicial Personnel. The information was presented by the Emergency Planner and Epidemiologist. The presentations focused on organizational, locality and personal preparedness during a pandemic. Additional presentations have been scheduled by the City of Petersburg.

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Director, Business Manager, Nurse Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Nurse Supervisors, Epidemiologist, Human Resource Assistant, and Planner participated in the FLUEX '06 statewide exercise on October 23 and 24.
- Planner distributed 7 invitations to partners in community health and emergency response organizations to participate in FLUEX '06 Mass Dispensing Exercise on November 3.
- Planner met with local law enforcement, a faith-based sheltering organization, Virginia Department of Transportation, and a Citizen Emergency Response Team to provide pertinent pandemic flu handouts, contact information, and to invite them to participate in the mass dispensing site exercise.
- Planner met with dispensing site supervisors (clerical, nursing, and environmental health) to plan and discuss job assignments during the mass dispensing exercise that will be conducted simultaneously in four counties on November 3.

- **Eastern Shore**

- Participated in FLUEX 06.
- Held local tabletop exercise with PanFlu scenario on October 26th. Had 54 participants including agency heads from law enforcement, hospital, nursing homes, media, EMS, Emergency Management, CERT, businesses, schools, community health centers, transportation, health department, poultry industry, hazmat, and utilities. Tabletop consisted of historical overview of influenza and current status of situation and threat of pandemic, moves that presented issues to think about and encouraged group interaction and coordination towards resolution. Well received.

- **Fairfax**

- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and MRC Trainer participated in Loudon County HD "CodeFlu '06" as "Observers;" numerous Fairfax HD staff assisted as POD staff.
- HD participated in "FLUEX '06" exercise to include attending morning briefing, afternoon situation report; conducted teleconference with Public Schools representatives, communications equipment training with 15+ MRC Volunteers and HDOC representatives, communications checks with public safety and neighboring Districts, and after-hours EAN alert/stand-down drill with MRC Volunteers.
- Epidemiologist participated in a pandemic influenza table top exercise with a long-term care, assisted and independent living facility.
- District participated in "FLUEX '06" exercise to include attending morning teleconference briefing, afternoon situation report, and conducting Incident Action Planning Workshop on PanFlu scenario.
- District participated in "FLUEX '06" "Hotwash" and conducted after-hours phone tree alert/stand-down drill that involved all HD staff (700+ personnel).
- Pandemic influenza training update for HD staff at Springfield District Office.
- Epidemiologist participated with Loudoun County Health Dept, CDC Washington Quarantine Station, MWAA, and Fire station 3 in a PanFlu isolation and quarantine functional exercise at Dulles--to receive orders for simulating involuntary isolation and quarantine of passengers on an incoming flight.
- Conducted second planning meeting for "Emergency Preparedness Summit for Long-Term Care Facilities" which includes PanFlu training for LTC facility staff.

- **Hampton**

- District took part in the FLUEX '06, this exercise allowed HHD to work with the new City of Hampton Emergency Manager, City of Hampton Fire Rescue, School Nursing

- and School Security. The Chemical Biological Radiological and Explosives, Police, Fire representatives from Fort Monroe also took part in the exercise as observers. Other observers included CO Craven Medical Center (U.S. Army Hospital) and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Science and Technology Division. During exercise there was discussion on how HHD / VDH are going to work with Fort Monroe in the event of an actual pandemic event.
- HHD also working with Hampton Schools Nursing and Security in the development of a plan for a pandemic event. This includes the development of an all hazards flip chart for response in any number of events, including a pandemic event.
 - **Henrico**
 - District participated in the FLUEX '06, the VDH Statewide Pandemic Flu exercise.
 - District continued to plan and prepare for the November 4th mass vaccination exercise (Operation HEALTH). Press Release was published.
 - Training for vaccine reservations phone bank staff was conducted.
 - The on-line vaccine reservations system and web page were tested and completed.
 - Planner provided a presentation of Pandemic Influenza preparedness to United Methodist Men's group at Lakeside United Methodist Church.
 - Epidemiologist sent the weekly avian influenza situation report to partners in the community.
 - **Lenowisco**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist participated in state pandemic flu drill.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist contacted CERT and MRCs teams as standby volunteers during drill.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist met with area hospital personnel to discuss pandemic flu plans.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist continue working with local agencies (police, fire, rescue, Social Services and Area Agencies on Aging) to encourage involvement in upcoming Dispensing Site Drill.
 - **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - Director, planner, epidemiologist, environmental health supervisor for Shenandoah County, and public health nurse supervisor for Shenandoah County participated along with the Central Shenandoah planner, the Regional Planner, and the Regional Trainer in "Valley Shield" exercise at Woodstock. This exercise brought in Shenandoah County's County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator, Board of Supervisor chair, Fire & Rescue personnel, State police, Cooperative Extension Agent, Red Cross, Social Services, Shenandoah Memorial Hospital safety personnel and physician rep, and other infrastructure personnel to a mock EOC dedicated to a pandemic influenza outbreak. Initial feedback has been excellent.
 - District's Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting with updates from district staff as well as input from members. It was a productive meeting. The District will be sharing its brochure for folks receiving this year's flu shots that includes info on keeping healthy, the difference among various flu-types
 - (seasonal, pandemic, avian), and references with the school system, local hospitals, etc. The group identified working with students to get info out as a useful tool.
 - **Loudoun**

Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):

 - Presented an MRC orientation to about 45 volunteers where the Code Flu 06 exercise was discussed.

- Emailed greater than 400 messages to “patient” participants regarding Code Flu 06 details.
- Conducted final Planning Team Meeting and Final Planning Conference (FPC) for the exercise.
- Completed Communications Plan and Directory, Evacuation Plan, Emergency Procedures, job descriptions, staffing tables, ICS charts, and schedule for the exercise
- Met with Prince William Health District Liaison and all County partners to compete coordination for the exercise.
- Completed preparing equipment and supply kits for the exercise.
- Completed coordination with observers and selected evaluators for the exercise (Friday night, Oct 20th).
- Completed set up for Staging Site and POD for the exercise.
- Completed 2800 pandemic influenza toolkits for ‘patient’ volunteer participants.
- Successfully conducted functional POD and Staging site PanFlu Exercise on 10/21/06 at Heritage High and Harper Park Middle Schools, Leesburg, VA. Approximately 1000 clients participated. 627 real vaccine doses were administered. Vaccination was simulated for those that did not qualify or did not want vaccine. Workers at both sites also had the opportunity to receive vaccine after the exercise.
- Post-exercise meeting held to discuss items for the After-Action-Report.

“FLUEX 06”:

- The SNS pick up portion of local SNS Receipt and Distribution Plan was successfully exercised. This required the establishment of an SNS request via scenario inject and for the field responders to perform those actions normally associated with processing, picking up, transporting, and securing the requested materials.
- Washington Dulles CDC Quarantine portion of Exercise completed successfully on 10/26/06, testing process and communication among CDC, LHD, and state Epidemiology officials in receiving a request for 12 quarantine and 3 isolation orders to transfer custody from federal to state response, assessing the passengers, completing relevant forms, transmitting and printing on site, serving of orders, and communicating with hospitals and EOCs. Fairfax and Loudoun Epidemiologists participated at a command center established at Dulles airport with EMS Captain and CDC Officer. Items for after-action-report being prepared.

Other

- Compiled a list of Federal, State, and private business continuity of operations (COOP) internet references for authorities, guidance, and training information to be appended to the Loudoun County Pandemic Influenza Plan.
- Conducted interviews for Phase II PanFlu position and filled position to start 11/3/06.
- Met with Chairman and members of the River Creek Homeowners’ Association to discuss methods for them to assist the LCHD in disseminating PanFlu information to the 1200 homes in their HOA. Provided information to include in the HOA’s disaster plan and raised discussion on COOP plans for the HOA’s critical and business functions. Scheduled a presentation to the general membership in March 2007. Provided contacts to assist in developing an HOA CERT.
- Consulted with the planning staff at Falcons Landing military retirement community of staffing response issues.
- Chaired the weekly meeting of the Loudoun County Pandemic Influenza Response Plan development work group on October 13 and 20, 2006
- Chaired the monthly Task Force Meeting and activated 3 additional work groups. Plan presentation timeline established.

- Provided 50 pandemic influenza information handout packets to a Loudoun County American Red Cross representative who will be speaking to the Goose Creek Boy Scouts leader's roundtable.
- Scheduled 3 pandemic influenza presentations for the officers and staff of the Leesburg Police Department: 3:00 p.m., October 24 (office staff), and 6:00 a.m., Sunday, November 5th and 12th (roll call training for patrol officers).
- Scheduled meeting with Board of Directors of River Creek Homeowners' Association to discuss Association pandemic influenza emergency preparedness plans, Tuesday, October 24, 7pm.
- Prepared information handout materials for upcoming pandemic influenza and Medical Reserve Corps presentations and display booth at the Family Preparedness Fair, October 14, 2006, in Ashburn, VA.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation at Leisure World retirement community, Lansdowne, VA. for 35 attendees, both residents and staff.
- Provided a one hour presentation on pandemic influenza to 250 Broad Run High School (Ashburn, VA) seniors and 35 teachers in their school auditorium. Discussed facts that historically their age group has been affected inordinately and how infection prevention measures could help them should a pandemic arrive. Interesting to note that these seniors had heard very little about pandemic flu despite many months of heavy media coverage.
- Staffed a static pandemic flu and Medical Reserve Corps table display and provided two PanFlu presentations at the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church Family Emergency Preparedness Fair, October 14, 2006, in Ashburn, VA. Approximately 50 members of the public attended.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation for 30 Loudoun County business executives at the Miles/Lehane Group, Leesburg, VA, on October 17, 2006.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation at Graydon Manor, Leesburg, VA, on October 19, 2006, for 30 staff members of the Loudoun County Juvenile Court Services Unit.
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for the Leesburg chapter of the Society of Human Resource Managers on January 9, 2007, in Leesburg, VA
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for about 30 employees of the Nissan North America's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in Dulles, VA.
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for the Heritage Nursing Home in November.
- **Norfolk**
 - District participated in the FLUEX '06 exercise by hosting a tabletop exercise with Norfolk emergency management, emergency response and community partner agencies on October 23 and 24.
 - District participated in the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital FLUEX '06 tabletop on October 25.
 - Norfolk Local Emergency Management Committee discussed the exercises, and pandemic influenza planning.
 - Director met with the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Student Health Services representative to the Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee of Old Dominion University to discuss volunteerism and response roles.
 - Influenza prevention was the subject of the weekly informational message sent out on October 25, 2006 on the public notification system used by the City of Norfolk. An informational message is sent out through email, phones, cell phones to persons enrolled through the city website. In time of emergencies, this system can be used for public notifications.

- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Educator (PIE) presented Pandemic Influenza information at the Gretna Old Timers Jubilee Health Fair.
 - Planner, Epidemiologist and PIE participated in the statewide FLUEX '06 drill.
 - Planner finished the planning details for the POD exercise.
 - Three hundred doses of flu vaccine were administered to PDHD citizens in the POD exercise. Many of the Health Department staff, six CERT members, and eight Danville Community Police participated. The time for individual patients to go through the POD will be calculated and an average time determined. A debriefing will be held with all Health Department staff who participated.
- **Prince William**
 - Drive-through Flu Clinic Planning Committee Meeting was held to continue to discuss needs and responsibilities for November 4 Flu Clinic to test an alternative method for the rapid distribution of medications or vaccines to citizens of the PWHD during an event.
 - Participated in the State Pandemic Exercise on October 23 - 24.
 - Tested communications at the County EOC.
 - Activated District Pandemic Plan to help review and update the plan.
 - Interacted with the school system from City of Manassas and County.
 - Met with County Area Agency on Aging and Citizens Corp Council to discuss Long Term Care Facility Evaluations. The evaluations are to assist the nursing home and assisted care facilities to improve their plans to include pandemic influenza planning.
- **Rappahanock-Rapidan**
 - Participated in the statewide FLUEX '06 drill - Both local hospitals and two local EOCs also participated.
 - Began delivering public awareness materials to local schools.
 - Partnered with Senior Nutrition sites in all five counties to assemble school packets and expose the senior population to pandemic flu preparedness materials.
 - Held a meeting of the Pandemic Preparedness Coordinating Committee (24 attendees). Reviewed FLUEX '06 activities and discussed lessons learned.
 - Continued preparations for mass vaccination clinics scheduled for Monday October 30.
 - Presentations to 3 community groups on preparedness and pandemic flu.
- **Roanoke City / Alleghany**
 - Health Educator addressed the medical and administrative staff at Alleghany Regional Hospital on seasonal and pandemic flu.
 - Health Educator met with school administrators from Alleghany and Covington districts about PanFlu planning.
 - Director, Emergency Planners and Health Educator held a lunch meeting and PanFlu planning roundtable for emergency managers from Roanoke City and Alleghany health districts.
 - Health Educator lectured on pandemic flu ethics to a medical ethics class at Jefferson College of Health Sciences.
- **Southside**
 - Management Team, Epidemiologist and Planner participated in the state-wide exercise, FLUEX '06.
 - Health Educator contacted the school systems about PanFlu presentations to and recruiting volunteers from PTA/PTO meetings.

- Planner met with Brunswick County Administrator and school nurses re: mass flu exercise.
- Planner developed a one-page Influenza questionnaire for mass clinics.
- Director attended a Rick Communication presentation in Richmond.
- Planner and HRH PIO discussed the possibility of providing training/meeting for businesses, government, healthcare providers, schools, etc. on Risk Communication.
- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
 - Planner provided FLUEX'06 dispensing site exercise training for UVA MRC members.
 - District staff participated in FLUEX '06 statewide exercise.
 - Epidemiologist provided PanFlu training program at local Chamber of Commerce business emergency preparedness seminar
 - Health Director and planner met with local police chief and command staff to discuss personnel protective equipment needs/recommendations for law enforcement during an influenza pandemic
 - District provided free annual flu vaccine to local first responders and emergency services personnel during a drive through clinic exercise. The clinic was held as a Mass Vaccination Exercise, in conjunction with FLUEX '06. Central Office PIO coordinated media requests from local media outlets during the exercise.
- **Three Rivers**
 - Participated in FLUEX '06 this week. Conducting mass vaccination drill 28 Oct, with free flu shot clinics at the Rappahannock Community College campuses in Warsaw and Glenss.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist actively participated in FLUEX06 23-24, 2006.
 - Because of the Franklin/IOW Floods, "Operation Community Immunity" was cancelled. However, the nurses of the Suffolk Health Department decided to conduct a "mini flu exercise" with our limited vaccine supply. Total: 164 flu immunizations in 6 hours, including paperwork. The nurses set up a POD complete with signage. They did an outstanding job.
 - During the Franklin/IOW Floods, the WTHD administered 600+ Tetanus vaccines to the citizens of Franklin and IOW. The Public Health Nurses took the vaccine to the people in the flooded areas to make certain everyone was treated prior to entering flooded areas and structures This served to test our mobile capability in taking vaccine on the road during a disaster "real time".
 - Epidemiologist conducted a PanFlu Presentation for the Western Tidewater Department of Corrections. He also discussed their COOP Plan.
 - PanFlu presentations are scheduled for:
 - Suffolk Neighborhood College, 9 Nov 2006
 - Suffolk Kiwanis Club, 16 Nov 2006
 - Sentara Obici Hospital Senior Citizen Volunteers, 3 presentations, TBA.